

August 30, 1960

Dr. Boris Rotman
Department of Biochemistry
V. A. Hospital
Albany, New York

Dear Boris:

I hope that my hastily scribbled note yesterday did not confuse you. I felt that I should ask you to keep the situation fluid, if it were still possible, with respect to support from the NIH until we could clarify this whole question at some meeting later on this year.

Esther and I were very much interested to see your letter and the data with it. In order to save time, Esther had sent you a gal²² stock which she knew had some reversions in it and it was intended that the galactose negative mutant be re-isolated. She will be re-isolating this culture and will send you another in due course and she will be writing to you herself.

I am beginning to be suspicious whether the Syntex Laboratories can possibly be ready by January 1st, since a definite site has still not been selected. Carl will expedite this as you might imagine, but this still leaves a possibility of some delay. I wonder if we could not turn this into some advantage for us. I would be very pleased if you could work with us during the time after you leave the VA laboratory and until you are actually ready to start work at Syntex. Dick Soffer is leaving this week and there are a number of aspects of the mutants in which you are interested that remain to be cleared up; but whatever you want to do in the galactose problem, we would be very happy to accomodate you. There are a number of ways in which this could be readily financed. However, there would be no point in throwing away funds that might be available anyhow, for example, you might even be able to use the residue from your own grant for the purpose-- on the basis that you were on terminal leave from your present laboratory. Quite apart from your change of position you could certainly have legitimately thought of doing this in the interests of the galactose search. But I mention this only as a rather expedient opportunity and there will be no difficulty in making other arrangements if this suggestion affords any problems at all. We will be a little crowded for space but I think we can work it out very well.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

JL/jh